

Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for facilitating the administration of a subsidiary account within a database contained within a host computer comprising the steps of:

receiving, at said host computer, a request ~~for~~ to establish a subsidiary account, said ~~parent request~~ identifying a parent account, said parent account being a financial account ~~associated with the parent~~, the said parent account having a parent spending power;

establishing, at said host computer, a said subsidiary account, said subsidiary account having a subsidiary spending capacity linked to said parent spending power, wherein said subsidiary account is configured to consume at least part of said spending capacity to facilitate payment for a transaction;

reducing, at said host computer, said parent spending power by an amount less than said subsidiary spending capacity; and

establishing, at said host computer, at least one spending limit configured to affect said spending capacity.

2. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit ~~is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect~~ is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed per transaction.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit ~~is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect~~ is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed per day.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit ~~is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect~~ is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed during a predetermined time period.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit ~~is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect~~ is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular merchant.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit ~~is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect~~ is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular chain of merchants.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit ~~is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect~~ is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular industry type.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit ~~is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect~~ is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed in accordance with a predetermined rate of change over time.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein receiving said request ~~is received~~ comprises:
receiving said request via a means for communication selected from the group consisting of a telephone, a pager, a computer, a digital communications device, a television, a personal digital assistant, and a facsimile machine.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring spending activity facilitated by at least one of a said parent card account and ~~one or more said subsidiary card accounts~~ account; and

modifying at least one of said parent spending power and said subsidiary spending capacity based at least in part on said spending activity.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for administering a subsidiary account ~~having a subsidiary spending capacity~~; within a computing system, the said computer system comprising:
an account administrator module in communication with a transaction administrator module;

a settler module; and

a statement generator module;

wherein the said account administrator module is configured to:

receive a request from a parent having a parent account, ~~and to~~

facilitate the an establishment of one or more subsidiary ~~account~~ accounts,

said subsidiary accounts including a subsidiary spending capacity, to

establish at least one spending limit in said parent account, and ~~configured to~~

affect said spending limit by an amount less than said subsidiary spending capacity,

wherein the said transaction administrator module is configured to facilitate transactions ~~consuming~~ decreasing said subsidiary spending capacity,

wherein the said settler module is configured to facilitate providing a settling payment to a merchant, and

wherein the said statement generator module is configured to facilitate generating a parent account statement.

12. (New) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, said plurality of instructions when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to establish a subsidiary account, said request identifying a parent account, said parent account being a financial account, said parent account having a parent spending power;

establishing said subsidiary account, said subsidiary account having a subsidiary spending capacity linked to said parent spending power, wherein said subsidiary account is configured to consume at least part of said spending capacity to facilitate payment for a transaction;

reducing said parent spending power by an amount less than said subsidiary spending capacity; and

establishing at least one spending limit configured to affect said spending capacity.

13. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed per transaction.

14. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed per day.

15. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed during a predetermined time period.

16. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular merchant.

17. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular chain of merchants.

18. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular industry type.

19. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed in accordance with a predetermined rate of change over time.

20. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of receiving said request comprises:

receiving said request via a means for communication selected from the group consisting of a telephone, a pager, a computer, a digital communications device, a television, a personal digital assistant, and a facsimile machine.

21. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

monitoring spending activity facilitated by at least one of said parent account and said subsidiary account; and

modifying at least one of said parent spending power and said subsidiary spending capacity based at least in part on said spending activity.